

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

safe drinking water act — south carolina state revolving fund

PROJECT: Westminster Water System Improvements
(Oconee County)

This Department, under Section 48-5-40 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, has the authority and responsibility to conduct environmental reviews and approve preliminary engineering reports (PER) prepared for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program. Our review has determined that implementation of the plan identified below will not cause a significant environmental impact and the Department hereby issues a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI).

This FNSI precedes approval of the preliminary engineering report entitled “Preliminary Engineering Report for 2004 Water System Improvements, Westminster Commission of Public Works”, dated October 2004. The report recommends water treatment plant (WTP) and water system improvements. Westminster Commission of Public Works will implement the plan. The following Environmental Assessment summarizes the environmental effects of the proposed project.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Need for New Facilities: At times, increased turbidity levels of the Chauga River (the WTP’s primary source of raw water) cause the plant to be shut down in order to avoid violations of the Surface Water Treatment Rule. An upgrade is needed to address the plant’s overall performance in lowering turbidity levels. Currently the chlorination system does not meet state standards. A new raw water supply line is needed to replace the aging and undersized 14-inch raw water line. The eastern portions of the distribution system have aged cast iron piping and inadequate storage. An elevated storage tank will provide additional storage when the plant is shut down for maintenance and will boost system pressures. A new water main will eliminate the aged cast iron piping and alleviate dead end mains in five locations.

Proposed Facilities: The attached figure shows the project location. The proposed water system improvements include construction of a new 15-million-gallon pre-settling basin, new raw water supply line, pump station, new effluent launder in each sedimentation basin, a baffle wall and mixers in the flocculation basin, a new chlorination system, air scour system, new 0.5-million-gallon elevated storage tank, approximately 31,000 LF of 12-inch water main, and additions to the monitoring system.

The estimated total capital cost for this project is approximately \$4,280,000.

Environmental Consequences: Minimal environmental impacts will result from the proposed construction. Construction of the WTP improvements will take place on the existing plant site except for construction of the pre-settling basin (within 1000 feet of the plant). The elevated storage tank site will be located on partially cleared land. Construction of the water main will occur on existing utility and road right-of-ways.

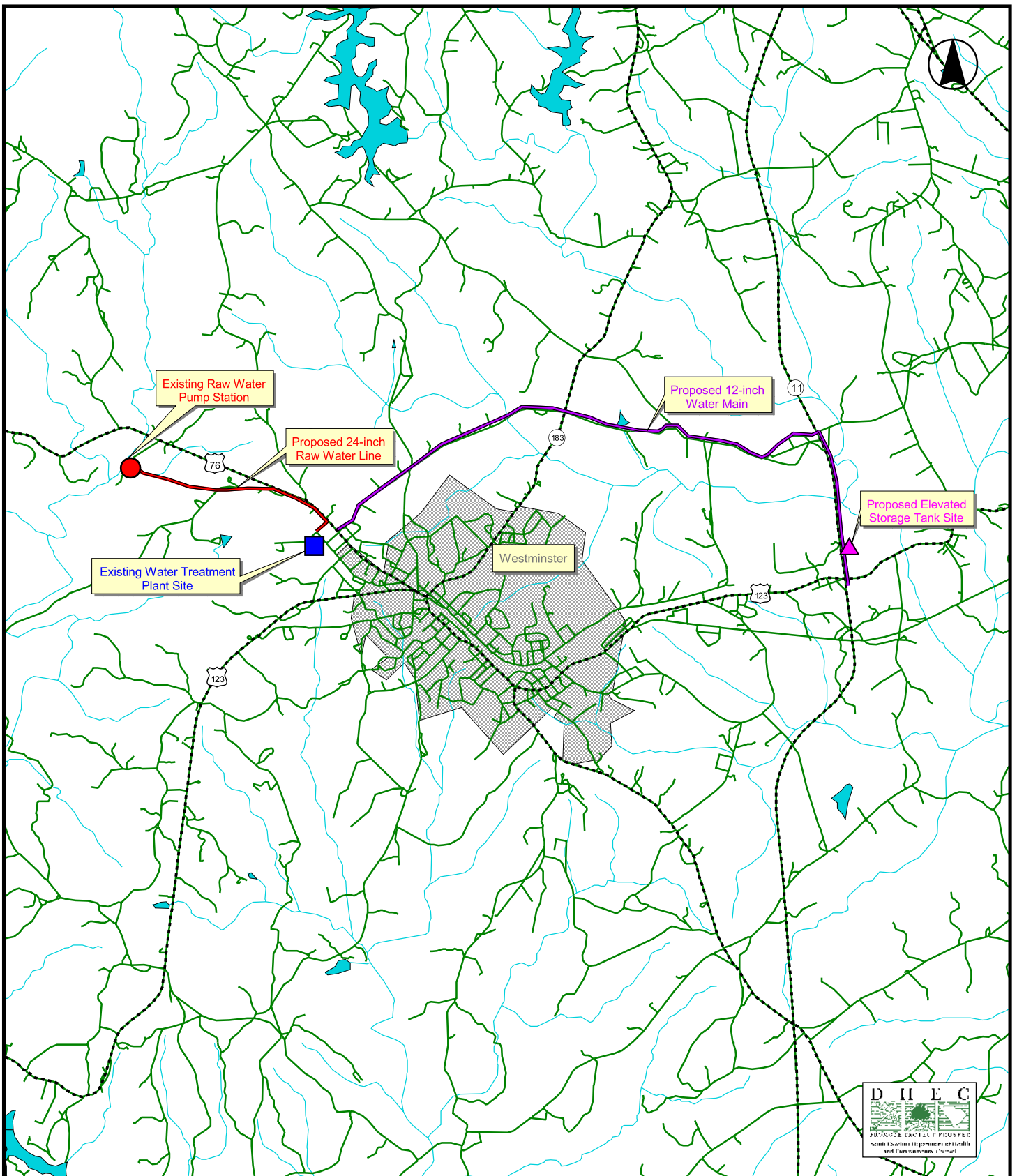
There are no important farmlands, endangered/threatened species, wild and scenic rivers, archaeological, wetlands, floodplains or historical sites, or national natural landmarks, located where they are likely to be impacted by implementation of the proposed project. Short-term, minor disturbances associated with construction such as traffic interference, noise, dust, vegetation loss, erosion and sedimentation will be minimized through the use of best-management construction practices. Demographic analysis and project information indicate no significant adverse impact on a minority or low-income population.

COMMENTS:

Comments in support or disagreement received within 30 days of the date of this FNSI will be evaluated before approval of the preliminary engineering report. If you wish to comment, send an e-mail (pricedc@dhec.sc.gov) or write to:

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Westminister Commission of Public Works Proposed Water System Improvements

- Existing Raw Water Pump Station
- Existing Water Treatment Plant Site
- ▲ Proposed Elevated Storage Tank Site
- Proposed 24-inch Raw Water Line
- Proposed 12-inch Water Main

